

Message Text

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ACTION VO-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3280

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS BTRA PFOR (ZAVORIN, IVAN PANFILOVICH)

SUBJECT: ZAVORIN VISA CASE; BRITISH 105

REF: A) MOSCOW 15219 B) MOSCOW 14429 C) MOSCOW 1822 D)

MOSCOW 14952 E) MOSCOW 1182

1. AS INDICATED REF A, EMBASSY HAS AGAIN RECEIVED VISA APPLICATION FROM MFA ON BEHALF I.P. ZAVORIN, SENIOR INTOURIST OFFICIAL WHO WAS ONE OF 105 SOVIET OFFICIALS EXPELLED FROM BRITAIN IN 1971. NEW APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED ONLY TWO WEEKS AFTER MFA WITHDREW (REF B) PREVIOUS APPLICATION, WHICH IT HAS SUBMITTED IN JULY AND USG NEVER GRANTED NOR FORMALLY REFUSED. ZAVORIN WAS LAST FORMALLY REFUSED IN FEBRUARY (REF C).

2. EMBASSY SPECULATED THAT SOVIETS, IN SUBMITTING NEW APPLICATION AT THIS TIME, MAY BE HOPING ZAVORIN AND INTOURIST ESTABLISHED HIGH-LEVEL PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH USG AND BUSINESS LEADERS DURING RECENT VISIT OF U.S. TOURISM DELEGATION, AND THAT DEPT WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE TO NOW ISSUE VISA. ALTERNATIVELY, MFA MIGHT BELIEVE VISA ISSUANCE MORE LIKELY IN WAKE OF MFA AUTHORIZATION OF VISA TO KOVNER EUR/SOV (REF D). EMBASSY HAD MADE SPECIAL REQUEST AT CHARGE LEVEL FOR VISA FOR KOVNER, AND AT DEPARTMENTS INSTRUCTIONS HAD EXPLAINED US VISA POLICY TOWARD THE BRITISH 105. WITH REFERENCE TO THAT POLICY AS STATED TO MFA, EMBASSY NOTES THAT NEW ZAVORIN APPLICATION IS FOR VISA TO ATTEND, AS INDICATED REF A, MEETING OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL AGENTS (ASTA), AND APPARENTLY
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ALSO VISIT TRAVEL AGENCIES. VISIT SEEMS COMMERCIAL IN

NATURE, SO REFUSAL WOULD SEEM CONSISTENT WITH POLICY TOWARD 105. SOVIETS COULD, OF COURSE, ENDEAVOR TO CLAIM TOURISM HAS RECOGNIZED SPECIAL ROLE IN US-USSR CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND CONTACTS, AND SUGGEST ZAVORIN'S PROPOSED TRIP MUST BE SEEN IN THAT LIGHT.

3. WHILE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT TIMING OF NEW ZAVORIN APPLICATION IS PROMPTED BY ONE OR BOTH OF ABOVE, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT TIMING HAS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND THAT MFA IS ROUTINELY FORWARDING ANOTHER VISA APPLICATION IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM ZAVORIN.

4. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, ZAVORIN HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN CONSULAR MATTERS AND IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS. EMBASSY HAS IN PAST RECOMMENDED ISSUANCE OF VISA (REF E). IN WAKE OF RECENT STATEMENT TO MFA OF POLICY TOWARD 105, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WOULD CONCUR THAT REFUSAL AT THIS TIME WOULD APPEAR APPROPRIATE. IF EMBASSY DOES AGAIN REFUSE ZAVORIN, HOWEVER, WE MUST ANTICIPATE THAT SOVIETS MAY TAKE RETALIATORY VISA REFUSAL ACTION, AND MAY RAISE CASE AT VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS LEVELS.
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